(c) if so, whether Government have caused or are causing a detailed review of the provisions of this Act, in the light of this decision and the observations made in relation thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) The High Court has not, even by implication, held|declared Section 18 of the Army Act as invalid. The Court has merely held that the orders passed under Section 18 of the Army Act are open to judicial review to ensure that there is no malafide and that the orders have not been passed on extraneous grounds and are not in the nature of a camouflage.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable.

News item regarding DRDO Scientists

1423. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item appearing in Hindustan Times dated 14th June, 1994 under the caption 'DRDO scientists unhappy lot' stating that inspite of achievements made by the DRDO scientists in the missile technology, the welfare and service conditions of the scientists were not considered; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in meeting the demands of the scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Welfare and service conditions of scientists are duly considered by the Government and a series of measures have been adopted to ensure that morale of all scientists (including those from Services) always remains high. The steps include better promotion prospects, residential government accommodation including hostels for young scientists, higher retirement age for meritorious scientists, in addition to normal service benefits admissible to them as Government servants.

Operations of Bofors under the name Mipro, Sweden

1424. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bofors, Sweden has started operating in the country in the name of Mipro, Sweden;

(b) whether Government are taking Bofors equipment and components through Mipro, inspite of a ban on Bofors operations in India; and

(c) whether some retired Government Defence Industry officials are cooperating with Bofors Mipro in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The embargo on M|s Bofors, Sweden is still in force and is being complied with strictly. According to verified information, M|s Bofors and M/s Mipro are two totally independent companies who have no management or ownership inter-connections with one another. Offers for certain spare parts have been obtained among others from M|s Mipro who are manufacturers and suppliers of these components, independent of Bofors.

the Ministry of Defence is not aware of any retired Government Defence Industry officials co-operating with M.s Bofors or M|s Mipro in the matter.

CSD entitlemtnt to retired civilians

1425. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the civilian employees working in Defence Ministry are entitled to CSD (I) Canteen Stores Department (India) facilities all over the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for this facility not being available to them after retirement|superannuation, etc;

(c) whether this facility is available to the armed forces personnel; and

(d) the steps taken to extend this facility to all defence civilians of superannuation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) Civilian employees working in Defence establishments and paid out of the Defence service Estimates, as well as civilian employees working in the Ministry of Defence, are entitled to purchase items other than liquor from the Unit Run Canteens, which in turn purchase these items from the Canteen Stores Department. This facility is not available to such employees on their retirement.

The Canteen Stores Department has been set up primarily for the benefit of Defence Service personnel, and the extension of the facility to certain categories of civilian personnel is incidental. Because the conditions of service of such personnel are quite distinct from those of Defence Service personnel, further extension of this benefit to retired civilians personnel is not considered necessary. Nor can it be justified in the light of the additional infrastructure which will need to be built up to cater to the additional clientele.

Supply of self-propelled gun system by Russia

1426. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Russia proposals for supply of different defence weapon systems, including the much needed self-propelled gun system, were discussed;

(b) if so, what are the broad details thereof;

(c) whether the Russians offered the weaponary particularly the aforesaid gun system at comparatively much cheaper rate than the corresponding British weapon systems; and

(d) what was the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) During his discussions in Russia wih Russian Leaders, Indo-Russian friendship and cooperation in all fields were reiterated by both sides. PM's visit resulted in new momentum being given to Idnia-Russia relations.

In the above context, Defence Cooperation was discussed between the two sides. Assurance have been received